



Congressman

BOB MENENDEZ

Legislative Update



Spring 2003

Dear Friend:

As your representative in Washington, one of my responsibilities is to ensure that Bayonne receives its fair share of federal funding. As a member of the House Leadership, I have worked closely with Mayor Joe Doria and his Administration, other local leaders, and concerned citizens to obtain funding for a number of worthwhile projects that will benefit you, your family, and your community.

MOTBY

To date, I have secured nearly \$15 million in Department of Defense appropriations to facilitate the conversion of the former Army installation into a major economic asset for the City of Bayonne and Hudson County. Earlier this year, I obtained \$2.5 million in federal appropriations funding to help carry out vital emergency stabilization of the south berths at the former Military Ocean Terminal-Bayonne (MOTBY). The planned redevelopment of the Peninsula at Bayonne Harbor will be a major catalyst for economic revitalization of the City of Bayonne and Hudson County, generating thousands of new jobs and economic opportunities for business and industry.

Community Safety

Since I began serving in Congress, one of my top priorities has been to improve safety in our communities. Over the past six years, I have helped secure almost \$5.2 million from the Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) for Bayonne. This money has been used to hire new police officers, provide officer training to improve interactions with communities, and obtain equipment and support systems. Of that total, \$3.2 million has been awarded to Bayonne to hire full-time police officers to work in local schools. The officers hired through this program are in our schools to protect our children and to serve as mentors and positive role models for our children.

In addition, I secured a \$1 million appropriations earmark through the Department of Justice/COPS Law Enforcement Technology program for the Bayonne Police Department to replace an obsolete radio communication system with state-of-the-art digital radio communication technology. This money will allow all emergency services in the City of Bayonne to use one interoperable communication system. In times of emergency, it is vitally important that those first responders who risk their lives for our safety be able to communicate with each other without fear of interruption.

Housing

Over the past six years, I have helped secure more than \$13.2 million in Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) programs for the City of Bayonne. These funds are used to revitalize neighborhoods, expand affordable housing and economic opportunities, and improve community facilities and services. The money has helped improve the lives of our residents and invigorated our community and economy.

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Education

Education is another important issue that I have focused on during my time in the House of Representatives. Earlier this year, I was happy to announce over \$950,000 in Head Start funding from the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) for the Bayonne Economic Opportunity Foundation (BEOF), which sponsors two Head Start programs in Bayonne. This money will be utilized to fund Head Start programs to further bolster the school readiness of young children. As you may know, Head Start is a comprehensive child development program for preschool children from low-income families. Children who attend Head Start participate in a variety of educational activities. They also receive free medical and dental care, have healthy meals and snacks, and enjoy playing indoors and outdoors in a safe setting. Head Start programs provide the initial building blocks that lay the foundation for our children's future.

My work here in Congress is focused on improving the lives of all residents in the 13th Congressional District, especially during these challenging times. Whether we are concerned about our national or economic security, I am committed to working tirelessly with Mayor Doria so that each and every one of you will be safe and secure.

I hope you find this update useful and informative. Please do not hesitate to contact me if I may be of assistance to you on these or any other issues in the future.

Sincerely,



Robert Menendez
Member of Congress

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Official Business


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This mailing was prepared, published and mailed at taxpayer expense.

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